

GRANGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1942Ulverston,
May, 1943.

Gentlemen,

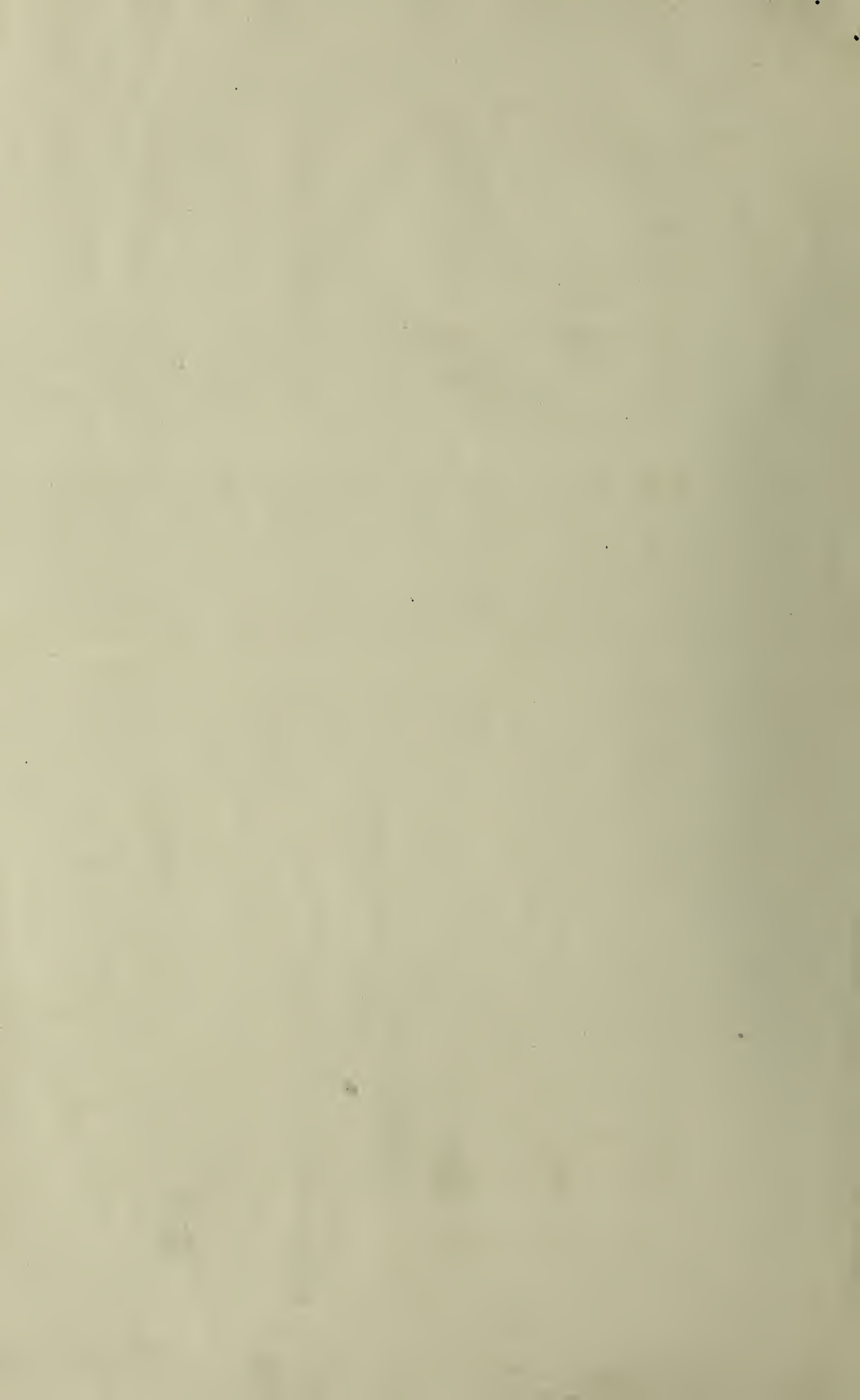
The necessity of keeping the Annual Reports of Medical Officers as short as possible is again emphasised by an Order of the Ministry.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. During my long association with your Surveyor, I have always found him most anxious to be helpful with regard to the supervision of your district, and especially was he always anxious in the case of the outbreak of any of the Infectious Diseases to investigate the cause of the outbreak and in taking steps to avoid the spread of infection.

WATER SUPPLY. Except for a very short period there was never any anxiety as to the failure of the supply of water to your district, the level of the water in the reservoirs being fairly constant, but there is no doubt that with the present storage capacity and the greatly increased demand in the Rural District that there will always be a risk of failure during any period of drought, and this should not be. No public body should have to resort to pumping, no matter from whatever source, to supplement their ordinary gravitation supply, but this is what has happened in your district, and must always happen unless some increased storage is provided. From the discussions which I have heard at the monthly meetings of your Council, I am convinced that so far as the Grange Council is concerned, the members would be unanimously in favour of putting an end to a state of affairs which is giving use to constant anxiety, by increasing the storage capacity very substantially, but I fear little can be done in this connection until times become more normal, although an Engineer has been appointed to prepare a scheme in readiness, a site having been acquired. In addition to increasing the storage capacity, the six inch main from the reservoir to Ivy Cottage will have to be renewed.

As Medical Officer representing the two Authorities interested, I have felt it necessary to adopt a neutral attitude upon this question, but with my retirement I feel that I can speak more freely upon the subject and my view has always been that considering the two Authorities are equally interested in the question of this water supply, a body representative of the two Authorities should be constituted with power to deal with all questions which might arise, and should be prepared to share the financial burden. Although I have not attended any of the meetings which have taken place between representatives of the two Authorities, I have listened to discussions which have arisen at the respective Council meetings and I have been satisfied that there has not been that feeling of co-operation and good-will which should exist between two bodies which are equally interested.

Rainfall on the Waterworks Gathering ground for the past ten years has been:-



Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total.
1933	12.01	7.91	8.42	8.90	37.24
1934	10.86	13.20	14.89	16.57	55.52
1935	10.63	12.54	17.21	18.80	59.18
1936	12.12	6.94	15.94	18.43	53.43
1937	12.69	9.39	11.47	8.59	42.14
1938	11.21	11.33	15.88	24.05	62.47
1939	13.17	8.20	13.62	13.19	48.18
1940	9.16	5.35	12.54	17.61	44.66
1941	9.68	6.69	9.78	13.93	40.08
1942	8.12	7.89	17.08	14.50	47.59
Average for 32 years	12.477	9.395	14.952	16.656	53.450 ins.

Average of
4 consecu-
tive driest
years 1939-
1942.

10.0325	7.0325	13.2550	14.8075	45.1275 ins.
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SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. Sewage and rainwater are dealt with on the combined system and there is nothing to report in this connection.

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL. The removal of house refuse undertaken by the Council is very satisfactory in spite of the shortage of labour and transport. Salvage is regularly collected and disposed of for national use.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. A great deal of the milk supplied to your district comes from producers in the surrounding Rural area. The cowsheds in your district are kept under supervision. The milk supplied to the district is as shown in table herewith.

- 1 Dairy for Certified and other milk.
- 12 Dairy Farms with 120 dairy cattle (estimated) including:-
 - 1 Producer and Bottler for Accredited milk.
 - 9 Cowkeepers and Purveyors of milk
(The above are resident in the district),
 - 1 Purveyor of Certified milk.
 - 2 Purveyors of milk.
 - 3 Cowkeepers and Purveyors of milk
(Resident in the Ulverston Rural District).

HOUSING. All questions affecting housing have been in abeyance during the year, but in any case it may be confidently asserted that there are no slum dwellings in your district.

<u>SANITARY WORK.</u>	Statutory Notices issued...	...	3
	-do- complied with...	...	3
	Informal notices issued...	...	5
	Rat nuisance abated...	...	1
	Eaves gutters repaired...	...	6
	House drains cleared...	...	3
	-do- repaired...	...	2
	-do- provided with septic tank...	...	1
	Pig keeping nuisance abated...	...	1
	Dairies and Cowsheds inspections...	...	26
	School milk samples taken...	...	3
	Offensive trade inspection...	...	4
	Rooms disinfected...	...	18
	Bedding destroyed...	...	2
	Meat unfit for sale...	...	530 lbs.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of district...	1884 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres
Population -do- 1921 census...	2920
1941 estimated	2750
Inhabited houses...	790
Rateable value	£27,595
Amount produced by penny rate	£110

POPULATION. In the absence of a census enumeration it is not possible to give a true estimate of the population of your district, but I cannot think I shall be very far wrong in basing my calculations on the estimate as given last year, viz. 2750.

BIRTHS. 13 births, 8 male and 5 female have been registered during the year which is equal to a rate per 1000 of 4.8. Last year there were 20 births equal to 7.2 per 1000.

Seasonal distribution of births:-

	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the first quarter	2	1	3
second "	3	2	5
third "	2	0	2
fourth "	1	2	3
Totals.	8	5	13

DEATHS. During the year 51 deaths have been registered which equals a death rate of 18.5 per 1000. Last year there were 37 deaths, the death rate then being 13.4 per 1000. The death rate is very much higher than that usually recorded, but it has to be remembered that in dealing with a small population, one death makes a great difference in the rate per 1000. I find that of the deaths recorded, 3 have been over 65 years of age, 6 over 70, 13 over 75, 7 over 80, and 6 over 85.

Age periods at which death occurred.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under one year,	3	-	3
Between one and 65	3	10	13
65 and upwards,	15	20	35
Totals.	21	30	51

Seasonal distribution of deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
In the first quarter	10	14	24
second "	4	9	13
third "	6	0	6
fourth "	1	7	8
Totals.	21	30	51

Causes of Death

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Nephritis.	8	6	14
Pneumonia.	4	4	8
Apoplexy.	3	6	9
Heart Disease.	1	7	8
Arterio-sclerosis.		1	1
Anaemia		1	1
Phthisis	1	1	2
Congenital defects	1	1	2
Cancer	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach		1	1
Premature Birth	1		1
Totals.	21	30	51

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during the past ten years:-

	<u>Typhoid</u> <u>Fever.</u>	<u>Scarlet</u> <u>Fever.</u>	<u>Diph-</u> <u>theria.</u>	<u>Bacillary</u> <u>Dysentery.</u>	<u>Erysip</u> <u>elas.</u>	<u>Pneu-</u> <u>monia.</u>	<u>Meas-</u> <u>les.</u>	<u>Whoop-</u> <u>ing</u> <u>Cough</u>	<u>Puer-</u> <u>peral</u> <u>Fever</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
1933										
1934	1									1
1935		2	1							3
1936		4								4
1937		4								4
1938		2	1		1	1				5
1939						1				1
1940		1				1	14	2		18
1941		1				2	14	30		47
1942		11		13		3	13	1	1	42
TOTALS	1	25	2	13	1	8	41	33	1	125

SCARLET FEVER. Altogether 11 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, but with the exception of 6 cases reported in June, there was no suspicion of anything approaching an epidemic, and the cases were extremely mild.

DIPHTHERIA. Immunisation. The children attending the Elementary Day School have been given protective injections of serum, and many who were under school age have also been immunised, and I am pleased to know that the campaign will be continued even more energetically than heretofore.

BACILLARY DYSENTERY. This is a disease which has not previously appeared on the table. It would seem to be a disease affecting chiefly the large bowel and would appear to be due either to the food or water supplies. In your district I think the water supply can scarcely be blamed and therefore one would suggest that it can only be due to the food supply.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Motor ambulances are available for ordinary accidents and illnesses, and also for infectious diseases.

LABORATORY WORK. This is undertaken quite free to Medical Practitioners.

In concluding this report, which will be my last as your Medical Officer, I have to thank the members of the Council and the officials for their unvarying kindness and consideration which has made my long term of service more a pleasure than a labour.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON.

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.
late Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1943.

